

REMARKS

Claims 1-63 are pending in this application. Claims 1-31 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected group. Claims 34-36 and 39 are canceled. Claims 32-38 and 40-63 are rejected. Claims 32 and 37 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 32-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious by International Patent No. WO 98/33974 (Kuhasalo et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,923,567 (Liedes et al.) or U.S. Patent No. 3,355,349 (Devlin) or U.S. Patent No. 4,997,524 (Nieminen et al.), Applicants have amended claims 32 and 37, and have canceled claims 34-36, and submit that claims 32, 33, 37, 38 and 40-63 are now in condition for allowance.

Kuhasalo et al. '974 disclose a method and equipment in the forming of a lead-in strip A (Figs. 1A-1D) in a paper/board machine including two cutters C_1 , C_2 of which at least one cutter C_2 , being is brought into connection with the web from outside the web, is a liquid cutter, preferably a water cutter (Abstract). In the first step first cutter jet C_1 performs first cut f_1 (page 6, lines 9-10. Second cutter nozzle C_2 forms second cut f_2 (page 6, lines 13-14). As shown in Fig. 1B, second cutter nozzle C_2 and second cut f_2 are shown closer to the web edge than first cutter jet C_1 and first cut f_1 .

Liedes et al. '567 disclose end conduction strip guiding element 10 (Figs. 1-3) in conjunction with a smooth-surfaced central roll 35 of a closed press section, on a lower sector thereof before doctor blade 39 (column 3, lines 61-65). From one side of web W, a narrow lead strip R is cut with a spray cross cutter (tail cutter/diagonal cutter) known in the art (column 5, lines 38-40). At first, a narrow lead strip R is cut, and when its run is stabilized, the spray cross cutter is traversed in the cross-direction of the web, and lead strip R is thus widened to be of full-width (column 5, lines 42-45). When the initial part 16R of plate 16 is formed to have a suitable,

fairly large radius of curvature R_0 , the strip R is swiftly stabilized to be governed by effect of the transfer blow P_2 and the guidance of the plate 16, and it is pulled taut so as to prevent bagging between the press roll 35 and end conduction strip guiding element 10 (column 6, lines 4-9).

Devlin '349 discloses an apparatus for conveying a lead strip from driers to calendars (Figs. 1-4) including endless belt-type conveyor 28 which extends between the drier and calendars to carry the lead strip therebetween (column 2, lines 39-42). The lead strip will pass over upper run 49 of the belt and the end portion of chest 48 adjacent pulley 30 and continue into waste (column 4, lines 5-7). Belt 29 is then placed in operation and roller 59 extended transversely thereacross (column 4, lines 7-9). The vacuum created in chest 48 results in the lead strip adhering to the moving belt so moving upwardly along the conveyor, and the portion of the lead strip now in the waste bin is automatically severed by cutter 78 (column 4, lines 10-14).

Nieminen et al. '524 disclose an apparatus for guiding and cutting off (Fig. 1) threading strip R including guiding plate elements 14a, 14b, which are supported by the frame structure at point 15a, 15b (column 2, lines 48-51). Guiding plate element 14 includes rows of nozzles 16, which blow in the length direction of element 14 (column 2, lines 51-53). Device 20 for cutting and guiding threading strip R is attached to guiding plate element 14 (column 2, lines 53-55). Device 20 includes first guiding plate 21, which is immediately followed by guiding plate element 14 (column 2, lines 55-57). Device 20 further includes cutting member 22, preferably a sharp saw blade 22, by way of which strip R is cut off (column 2, lines 57-60).

In contrast, claim 32, as amended, recites in part:

at least one deflection device . . . , at least one said deflection device being a guide apparatus provided for deflecting the edge strip, said guide apparatus having a guide surface which, considered in the web running direction, begins in a flat plane for first receiving the edge strip and then merges therefrom into a curved, outwardly extending contact surface for the edge strip, said guide apparatus

comprising a plurality of at least essentially planar guide panels provided with side walls, said guide panels being arranged in cascade form.

(Emphasis added.) Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Kuhasalo et al. '974, Liedes et al. '567, Devlin '349 or Nieminen et al. '524, or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and has distinct advantages thereover.

Kuhasalo et al. '974 disclose a first cutter jet C_1 performing a first cut f_1 , and a second cutter nozzle C_2 performing a second cut f_2 , where the second cutter nozzle C_2 and the second cut f_2 are closer to the web edge than first cutter jet C_1 and first cut f_1 . Kuhasalo et al. '974, Liedes et al. '567, Devlin '349 and Nieminen et al. '524 fail to disclose or suggest at least one deflection device which is a guide apparatus with guide panels arranged in cascade form.

An advantage of the present invention is the transfer strip can be positioned such that it is ultimately taken up in its overall width in the relevant downstream machine section, and thus ensure in a simple and reliable manner that, for example, the transfer strip is gripped in its overall width by a respective roll nip, e.g. a winding nip or the like.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 32, and claims 33, 37, 38 and 40-63 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested

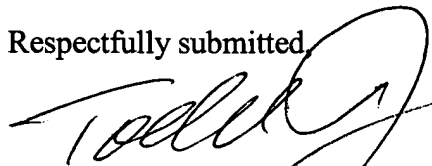
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally

petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095,
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Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to
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Respectfully submitted



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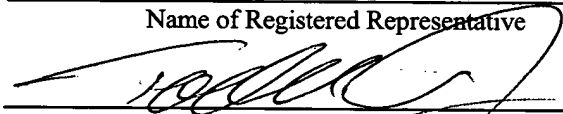
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Date